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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/658,698	09/08/2000	Samuel C Silverstein	60467/JPW/GJG	3655

7590 08/13/2004

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EXAMINER

VANDERVEGT, FRANCOIS P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1644

DATE MAILED: 08/13/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/658,698

Applicant(s)

SILVERSTEIN ET AL.

Examiner

F. Pierre VanderVegt

Art Unit

1644

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 April 2004 and 17 May 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

Claims 33-132 have been canceled previously.

Claims 1-32 are currently pending.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on April 19, 2004 has been entered.

In view of Applicant's amendment filed April 19, 2004 only the following ground of rejection is maintained.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

2. Claims 1-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter that was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

It was previously stated: "Briefly, the claims are most broadly drawn to a method of inducing an immune response in a subject having a disease to an antigen. The method includes a) loading the antigen and adenosine triphosphate into a particle, b) coating the particle with a ligand of antigen presenting cells, c) incubating the coated particles with antigen presenting cells (APCs), and d) administering the APCs to the subject and generating an immune response to the antigen.

In the "First Series of Experiments" at pages 32-34 and Table 1 on page 35 of the specification it is disclosed that dendritic cells primed in this manner were capable of stimulating the proliferation of T cells in a standard *in vitro* thymidine-uptake assay, asserting that the assay represent a "CTL assay" at page 35, lines 1-7. However, CTL activity as a measure of specific cellular immunity is more accurately reflected by a cytotoxicity assay, such as a ⁵¹Cr-release assay or a cytokine profile. It is well established in the art that cellular immunity, mediated by NK cells and killer T cells, is a Type 1 activity and that humoral immunity, mediated by antibodies, is a Type 2 activity (see, *e.g.*, page 188, column 1 of Grufman et al (U on PTO-892)).

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It is respectfully submitted that it would require an undue amount of experimentation on the part of one skilled in the art to practice the claimed invention. Grufman et al in the paragraph bridging the columns on page 1088 discloses that IL-12 is required for Type 1 responses to cancer antigens and some bacterial antigens, while not being crucial for some other bacterial infections or viral infections. The la Sala et al 2001 reference (V on PTO-892) discloses that incubating dendritic cells in ATP during maturation, *i.e.*, antigen loading, distorts said maturation and inhibits the production of IL-12 by the matured dendritic cells and impairs their ability to initiate Type 1 immune responses *in vitro* (abstract and column 1 of page 1614 in particular). Accordingly, based upon the state of the art, the artisan would not be able to predict that the dendritic cells generated by the claimed method would be able to stimulate an effective killer T cell response to any antigen *in vivo*, irrespective of whether the T cells are stimulated by the dendritic cells *in vivo* (claims 1-16) or *in vitro* (claims 17-32).

Additionally, and in particular regard to the method of claims 1-16, the specification does not demonstrate, or reasonably suggest success of, the ability of those same dendritic cells to attract cytotoxic T cells *in vivo*. The la Sala et al 2002 reference (W on PTO-892) discloses that dendritic cells that are treated with extracellular ATP possess a reduced capacity for attracting Th1 and T-cytotoxic (killer) 1 cells. One skilled in the art would not be able to predict that dendritic cells which were primed *in vitro* in the presence of extracellular ATP would be able to attract Type 1 killer T cells *in vivo* for activation versus the loaded antigen.

In view of the lack of predictability in the art to which the invention pertains and the lack of established clinical protocols for therapies based upon the *in vivo* or *in vitro* activation of T cells using artificially manipulated APCs, undue experimentation would be required to practice the claimed methods with a reasonable expectation of success, absent a specific and detailed description in applicant's specification of how to effectively practice the claimed methods and absent working examples providing evidence which is reasonably predictive that the claimed methods are effective for inducing a cytotoxic response to an antigen *in vivo*."

Applicant's arguments filed April 19, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that the references cited cannot be used to cast doubt on Applicant's claimed invention because Grufman teaches only the incubation of APCs with peptide, but without ATP and la Sala teaches only the extracellular application of ATP, while the vesicles of the instantly claimed invention direct the ATP via phagolysosomes directly into the cytoplasm. This is not convincing because ATP is an intracellular messenger, not an extracellular messenger. In order for the ATP to exert an effect upon cells as in the la Sala reference, it must be taken up by the cells and is therefore present in the cytoplasm - similar to the instant invention. Accordingly, absent a showing that there is a functional difference between the instantly claimed invention and the teachings of la Sala and Grufman, the specification is not seen as being enabled for the *in vitro* stimulation of APCs for the generation of an immune response *in vivo*.

Conclusion


3. No claim is allowed.


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4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to F. Pierre VanderVegt whose telephone number is (571) 272-0852. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 6:30-4:00; Alternate Fridays 6:30-3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christina Chan can be reached on (571) 272-0841. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

F. Pierre VanderVegt, Ph.D. 
Patent Examiner
August 6, 2004


PATRICK J. NOLAN, PH.D.
PRIMARY EXAMINER
8/9/04